

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-35 are currently pending in the application. In the Office Action dated October 31, 2007, claims 1-35 were rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1, 18, and 32-35 have been amended, without acquiescence or prejudice to pursue the original claims in a related application. No new matter has been added.

#### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101**

Claims 32 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without acquiescence to the stated reason for rejection, claims 32 and 34 have been amended. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for claims 32 and 34.

#### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102**

Claims 18-31 and 34-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Alam et al. (United States Patent Application No.: US 2005/0160419A1).

Claim 18 recites the following limitation “creating a first private symbolic link to reference the first version of the shared file, the first private symbolic link comprising link criteria that designates that the members in a first group are authorized to use the first private symbolic link.” Alam fails to disclose the limitations as claimed.

Alam discloses writing a symbolic link for a test server that allows a call by the test server for /project/subproject to be changed to a call for /project/subproject/versionx+1 (paragraph [0017]). After testing the server with the symbolic link, the production proxy server of Alam routes all client requests with the address including “www.IBM.com/project/subproject” to the test server instead of the working server (Fig. 1 and paragraph [0017]). Thus, the link in Alam allows all client requests to access the server, and does not disclose link criteria to designate members that are authorized to use the private symbolic link.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Alam fails to anticipate every limitation of claim 18. Because claims 34 and 35 share each of the limitations of claim 18 discussed above, they are not anticipated by Alam. Furthermore, because claims 19-31 depend from claims 18, 34 and 35, they also are not anticipated by Alam.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

Claims 1-17 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alam et al. (United States Patent Application No.: US 2005/0160419A1), in view of Earl et al. (United States Patent No.: US 6,966,058 B2).

Claim 1 has the following limitations “creating a private symbolic link for the first member to reference the second version of the shared file, the private symbolic link comprising link criteria that designates that the first member of a group is authorized to use the private symbolic link.” As discussed above, Alam fails to disclose the first private symbolic link with link criteria that designates that the first member is authorized to use the private symbolic link. Earl also does not disclose or suggest such limitation, and therefore, does not remedy the deficiencies present in Alam.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Alam in view of Earl fails to anticipate every limitation of claim 1. Because claims 32 and 33 share each of the limitations of claim 1 discussed above, they are not anticipated by Alam in view of Earl. Furthermore, because claims 2-17 depend from claims 1, they also are not anticipated by Alam in view of Earl.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing, all claims are believed allowable, and an allowance of the claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

To the extent that any arguments and disclaimers were presented to distinguish prior art, or for other reasons substantially related to patentability, during the prosecution of any and all parent and related application(s)/patent(s), Applicant(s) hereby explicitly retracts and rescinds any and all such arguments and disclaimers, and respectfully requests that the Examiner re-visit the prior art that such arguments and disclaimers were made to avoid.

If the Commissioner determines that additional fees are due or that an excess fee has been paid, the Patent Office is authorized to debit or credit (respectively) Deposit Account No. 50-4047, billing reference no. 7030492001.

Respectfully submitted,

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